

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the final Office Action mailed December 15, 2006. By this paper, claims 23 and 24 are amended and new claims 25-38 are added. Therefore, claims 23-38 are pending upon entry of this paper.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the time spent conducting a telephonic interview with Applicant's attorney on May 31, 2006. During this interview, the cited prior art was discussed as well as claim amendments that would differentiate the claims from the cited art.

Response to Rejection of Claims 23-24

Claim 23 is directed toward a desiccant cartridge having a combination cap member and docking piece with a centrally disposed aperture therein. By use of the combination of cap and docking piece as now claimed, the desiccant cartridge can be utilized in conjunction with air refrigeration canisters and the like having radially offset fluid flow tubes. These types of canisters may be seen, for example, in Fig. 9 of the specification. Thus, in accordance with the invention, a desiccant cartridge of the type having a centrally disposed fluid flow tube therein can be utilized in conjunction with canisters having radially offset type fluid flow conduits or tubes. The inventive combination comprises a cap for providing closure over the cartridge. A docking piece is detachably engaged in a radially extending port formed along the surface of the cap. The combination has a centrally disposed first aperture therein for communication with the desiccant cartridge. The combination has a second aperture therein that is radially offset from the centrally disposed aperture. The offset aperture communicates with the center aperture through a passageway formed by the cap and docking piece. More particularly, claim 23, as amended, is directed to a combination in a desiccant cartridge comprising, *inter alia*:

a generally circular cap for providing closure over said desiccant cartridge to retain desiccant therein and a docking piece for engagement with said cap, said combination having a central axis extending therethrough and a first aperture coaxial with said central axis for communication with said desiccant cartridge, said cap having a recess in the form of a port formed along a surface of said cap and extending radially

outwardly along said surface from said central axis, said docking piece being detachably engaged in said port, said combination further comprising a second aperture therein radially spaced from said first aperture so as to be offset from the central axis and in communication with said first aperture through a passageway formed by the cap and the docking piece.

Claim 23 in the application stands rejected as being anticipated by Trapp et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,983,516). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 23 is novel and patentable over the references of record, and particularly over Trapp et al., because the cited art does not show or suggest a generally circular cap having a central axis extending therethrough and a first aperture in the combination coaxial with the central axis for communication with a desiccant cartridge as required by claim 23. Additionally, the cited art does not show or suggest a cap having a recess in the form of a port formed along a surface of the cap and extending radially outwardly from the central axis with a docking piece being detachably engaged in the port such that the combination further comprises a second aperture therein radially spaced from the first aperture and in communication with the first aperture through a passageway as required by claim 23.

Trapp et al. discloses a shuttle valve mechanism for controlling the flow of compressed air from a twin tower compressed air cleaning and drying system. Trapp's cleaning and drying system includes two desiccant chambers, a control system and a cover member into which the shuttle valve mechanism has been incorporated. Secured atop the chambers, the single cover member defines an outlet port, first and second passages, and a horizontal chamber between the passages in which the shuttle valve can be moved reciprocatingly. The horizontal chamber has two ends, a first interconnected to the first desiccant chamber by the first passage and a second interconnected to the second desiccant chamber by the second passage. The outlet port of the dryer extends from the horizontal chamber. The shuttle valve selects which chamber is on-line and also directs a small purging flow of air back through the off-line chamber.

Trapp et al. provides no hint or suggestion of a generally circular cap with a central axis extending therethrough and a first aperture coaxial with the central axis for communication with a desiccant cartridge. In this regard, it is noted that the present invention facilitates the ability to

use a desiccant cartridge of the type having a centrally disposed fluid flow tube therein in conjunction with a canister having a radially offset type fluid flow conduit. Therefore, providing a cap and docking piece combination having a first aperture coaxial with its central axis is an essential feature of the present invention, and this feature is completely absent from the system disclosed in Trapp et al. Neither of the apertures leading to the desiccant cartridges is coaxial with the central axis of the cap. Furthermore, Trapp et al. contains no hint or suggestion as to the provision of a radially extending port formed in the surface of the cap that extends outwardly from the central axis. This port readily receives the docking piece that functions as an adapter for directing the flow of air from the offset aperture that is radially spaced from the central aperture (and therefore capable of being aligned with the offset conduit as shown in FIG. 9) and the aperture that is coaxial with the central axis. Trapp et al. is therefore deficient in the provision of a combination that directs fluid and/or gas from the offset aperture spaced from the central axis to the aperture coaxial with the central axis as set forth in claim 23.

Accordingly, claim 23 is not anticipated by or made obvious by the cited reference and favorable consideration of claim 23 is respectfully requested. Claim 24, depending from claim 23, is submitted as patentable over the cited reference for at least the same reasons.

Response to Double Patenting Rejection of Claims 23-24

The claims of the instant application also stand rejected as allegedly constituting double patenting over Hayes et al. 6,692,556 in view of Line 2,758,719. In this regard, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of the instant application are patentably distinct from the claims in the aforementioned Hayes et al. patent. As recognized by the Examiner, the claims of the Hayes et al. patent do not contain the limitation of a docking piece having a housing detachably engaged in a port. Further, the claims of the Hayes et al. patent do not include the radially disposed port formed along the cap surface or the snapping fit of the docking piece into the elongated radially extending port that is formed in the cap. These features absent from the claims of the Hayes et al. patent form the very essence of the inventive concept to which the claims of the present application are directed. The Line '719 patent has been carefully considered and nowhere can one find therein any hint or suggestion as to the provision of a docking piece as herein recited for detachable engagement with the cap portion as set forth in claim 23. Therefore, the Line patent

cannot cure the deficiencies of the Hayes et al. reference. Accordingly, the claims in the instant application define inventions that are not obvious variations of the inventions claimed in the Hayes et al. '556 patent. See MPEP §804 II B1.

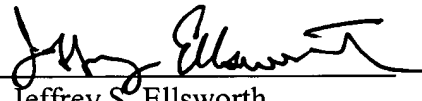
Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims at bar define patentable subject matter in full compliance with patent statutes. The issuance of a Notice of Allowance is accordingly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if, during the course of reconsideration of this matter, any question or comment should arise.

Respectfully submitted,

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